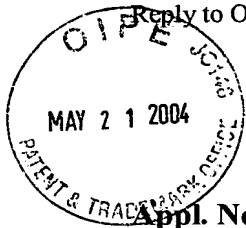


Appl. No. 09/612,582
Amdt. Dated May 18, 2004
Reply to Office action of November 18, 2003



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41
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/612,582 **Confirmation No. :** 7097
Applicant : Hidetoshi Narahara
Filed : July 7, 2000
TC/AU : 2123
Examiner: Kandasamy Thangavelu
Docket No. : 32796
Customer No.: 116

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2100

AMENDMENT "A"

Sir:

The three month response period for responding to the Office action of November 18, 2003 expired on February 18, 2004. Applicant's hereby petition and request a three (3) month extension of time to extend the respond period from February 18, 2004 through May 18, 2004. By this amendment, 2 new claims have been added. A check in the amount of \$986 is enclosed to cover the \$950 extension of time fee and the \$36 additional claim fee.

In response to the Office action of November 18, 2003, paper no. 5, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 13 of this paper and include attached replacement sheets.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 14 of this paper.

05/24/2004 HVUONG1 00000004 09612582

01 FC:1253 950.00 OP
02 FC:1202 36.00 OP

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Robert F. Bodi
Name of Attorney for Applicant(s)
May 18, 2004 Date
Signature of Attorney